Dear Art (and others), 6/5/77

Unless Ms. Burke of the committee go public this and the enclosed letter to her are private and FYI only.

I have never written her before, spoken to her or been to her office. However, what she said to you or me has come back to me often enough in different form. To now I've ignored it. With their coming hearing and all its forecast of more media eventing I have come to feel, rightly or wrongly, that I had better make a record for them to live with If they start playing their kind of games with me.

I am certain Chardak denied there is any subpoena for you only because he received press inquiries.

While I have no fear of any of this I also do not feel right today. I put in more than 20 hours yesterday under conditions that limited my wlaking too much. The previous several days also were too long for me now as they have not been in the past. It is foolhardy of me not to adjust as I should, restrain myself more and I must.

Adjusting is not easy and not only because of the fire-horse/bell syndrome. Taking a nap is a big deal. I have to remove and then put the harnesses back on. I may not sleep in them. And from three decades of countryman living I'm up before dawn.

If I feel any tension - and I am aware of none - it would be from fear that I might be forced to miss the Tuesday media event. I would rather enjoy what my being there will mean after this Burke articulation of what they have not gone public with.

What will keep me from being there is how I feel, not that situation. I do not for a minute believe that any of these neo-McCarthyites is about to tangle with me in public, on my record, my record with them or my knowledge of both cases.

As of yesterday I lost my ride to Washington. The friend who has driven me both ways is on the night shift permanently and beginning this week. (He is an exceptionally decent man who has done this so he can care for their three infants, one only a month old, during the day while his wife returns to college and gets her degree.) Of the students who were helpful last year all are home save one who is just out of the hospital. This limits my return to the bus or to imposing on Jim Lesar, who simply can't take that kind of time. He did two weeks ago when I felt badly in Washington, badly enough to see the doctor and for him to have an immediate EKG. However, I cannot permit this imposition on Jim's precious time except in an emergency.

Bus service is infrequent and at this time of the year crowded. The express buses carry tourists. The return buses go to Akron and Chicago and places like them, not just here. I dare not get into a situation in which I'd have to stand or risk being jostled unless I am much more able than I am today.

If Skip phones me I'll undertake to explain this in the event I am not there. I do not want to miss that but I also believe I have to begin a further reorienting of my priorities. In this survival and continuing to work must be first.

While generally I snap out of these things rapidly since last fall I have not been able to avoid a steady reduction in my physical capabilities.

I have what for me is an important FBI appointment for the same day only because I figured the committee would gets its tube work in in the morning I asked Jim to make it for after lunch. This meeting is quite important for me in terms of greater compliance, perhaps put better as less non-compliance, in one of my FOIA suits. I have been pressing the FBI with some vigor to get to this point, which makes my keeping that appointment more important to me. So I am trying to assure you that I do want to be there Tuesday

Based on the past the chances are that I will be there. What prompts caution is my unfortinately clear recollection of the overly-early medical release to tangle with Nelin ~~x~~ in 11/75(The airline took one look at me and sing heloaded me, emptied the seats around me and sat a nurse next to me. They wheel-chaired me in Nashiville and had one awaiting me in Washington. I did not ask it,) That slowed me down for some weeks. In addition, there was what I indicate above only two weeks ago.

If I am not there I want you to know why. There is also more. If I do not regard Skip as any more a pillar of society that I do any of the Rays, I do regard my rights and yours as dependent on their enjoyment of theirs. It is this simple for me. You have spent more time with him that I bit I have done much more work on that aspect than anyone else. It is a lost more complimated than the WC or theFBI indicated. I plan to try to see a witness not around earlier when I am in Dallas next week. (And I must be fir for that trip now.) am 64 now and have not been before.) There is another between Calif. and here I may stop off to see on the way back, although I'm booked on a non-stop now. So I want the demeanor evidence of any witnesses besides Hall they put on. Lonf experience tells me this can mean more than the cold transcript which in the end I'd have.

There is no ulterior purpose in my writing Burke. I never permit such challenges to go unmet. That letter is the first thing I did today. When the physical feelings did not pass offand I got to looking ahead in the event they do not by Tuesday I decided to write you so you would understand.

Over the years I have separated myself more and more from most others in this field. The reasons vary from case to case but in general it is to avoid wast ing time in futilities and to have more time for what I want to do. Thus I cannot tell you what others now believe about this committtee. Nonetheless I believe that among most of those I ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ consider nuts and irresponsibles there cannot now be many who are not disenchanted. By now they must be reduced to the Webermaniacs and those like the paranoid other Richard Sprague. This means they are about down to Cane. In turn when the major media has not reason to be favorable to them, thanks to them, this can promote more desperation. From this more nattiness can be expected, whether or not it follows. For this reason I am sending copies of my letter to Burke to you, in her district and because you have this personal involvement they arranged, and to George Lardner and Wendell Rawls, because I spoke to them only after learning what the assassins had attempted with you.

You should know what Burke really has in mind. It does not go back to the beginning, as she tols you. It may very well begin with some of Sprague's method in seeking to save himself because from ~~October~~ October on my dealings were with him. George Lardner and David Burnham are among those who asked me about specifics about this committee. My answers were in specifics. Then and since. These people cannot coexist with fact and specifics. Yet they are dedicated and true believers, like Joe McCarthy.

In simplification, in the event they get more irrational and more irresponsible and go off into and onto me, I want this direct challenge that comes from another need to be in the mail in advance of that, remote as the possibility may be.

With you the chances now greatly reduced, are better than with me. Meaning more likely. If it happens you fight on your turfand where the phoney liberal Burke has a constituency to face. You go into federal district court in L.A., not D.C. Unless there is a press amicus curiae, which could prompt further thought. There is a Reporters' Committee on Freedom of the Press, based at 1750 Penna. Ave., NW, D.C. You have no such knowledge as could be attributed to Farr. I think the possibilities of any subpoena against you being justifiable as even relevant are slight. There remains the basic principle. In combibation I believe it is enough to calm even such nuts. If not remember that in addition to the basic question about subpoenacing reporters there must be a legislative purpose, there must than be relevance and they will have to establish in open court that they are not trolling for California fish...You will also find that there is often an official unwillingness to tackle one who braces himself and says here I astand. Best wishes,